

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**EXECUTING VARIABLE LENGTH INSTRUCTIONS STORED WITHIN A
PLURALITY OF DISCRETE MEMORY ADDRESS REGIONS**

5 Within a system supporting execution of variable length instructions a program
is stored within discrete memory regions with a variable length instruction spanning a
gap between two such discrete memory regions. When execution is attempted of such
a variable length instruction spanning a gap, an abort handler is initiated which serves
to copy the end portion of one of the memory regions together with the start portion of
10 the other memory region into a separate fix-up memory region where these may be
concatenated such that the whole of the variable length instruction will appear in one
place. Execution of that variable length instruction from out of the fix-up memory
region can then be triggered. This execution is constrained by the setting of a single
step flag which causes the hardware to only execute the single instruction which span
15 the gap before returning control to a single step exception handler which can then
restore program flow to the point in the following memory region after the variable
length instruction which spanned the gap.

[Figure 4]